

CLASS IS IN SESSION



KRISTINA WRIGHT for The Columbian

Students at the new Liberty Middle School in Camas didn't appear unhappy to trade summer's freedom for classes on Tuesday. More than 600 students filled the former Camas High School building on Garfield Street, vastly remodeled for \$15.5 million. About 65,000 students returned to Clark County schools Tuesday.

Camas sixth-graders excited about 'new' Liberty Middle School

Thursday opening for EHS

■ Evergreen High will open on Thursday, after remodeling delays that kept teachers from accessing classrooms forced a schedule change. All students are to report to McKenzie Stadium for a 7:25 a.m. assembly, followed by campus tours.

Police step up bus patrols

■ Launching "Operation Bus Stop," Vancouver police have stepped up enforcement of safety zone and school bus laws near Vancouver and Evergreen schools. Motorists must obey the 20 mph school zone limit and stop when red lights and bus "stop" paddles are activated, and should be alert to children.

By HOWARD BUCK
Columbian staff writer

CAMAS — The first groan of the school year in Room 103 of the new Liberty Middle School came about half past 10 Tuesday morning.

That's when teacher Jim Dewey warned his 34 pupils he would give some tests this week.

Barely 15 minutes later, those same sixth-graders and their lunchmates were proudly extolling the virtues of the old Camas High School building on Northeast Garfield Street, exhaustively remodeled into a flashy new campus.

"New technology!" said one of a pack of boys chowing down at a cafeteria table.

"New friends," said another. "It's nice when you walk in and don't know everybody."

"It's brand new, so there's nothing scratched up," added a third.

Across Clark County on Tuesday, similar joy mixed with first-day jitters as some 65,000 private and public school students in the Vancouver, Evergreen, Battle Ground, Camas, Green Mountain and Woodland districts returned to classrooms. Several thousand more began last week.

The lone holdouts were Hockinson students, who start today, and Evergreen High School students, whose return

"It went better than I expected. I haven't slept all summer."

Marilyn Boerke
LIBERTY'S
PRINCIPAL,
ON OPENING DAY